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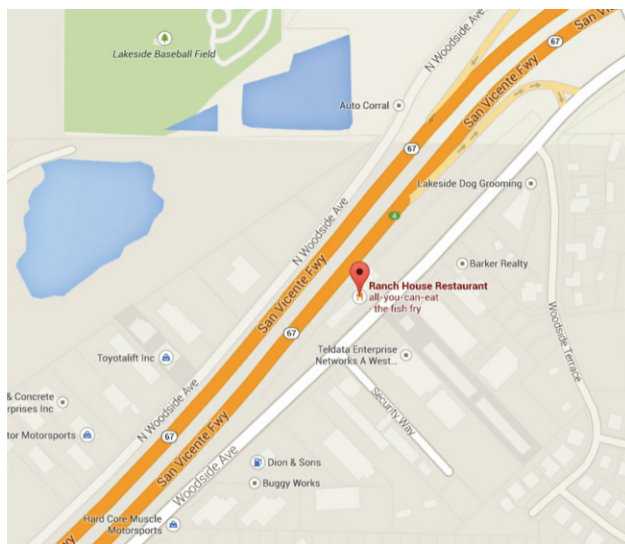
July 2014

*Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ*

## Meeting Location Change

The location for the August meeting has been changed our usual venue, The First Lutheran Church will not be available for the month of August. We will return there for the September meeting. We will be meeting at;

**Ranch House Restaurant**  
**11510 Woodside Ave., Ste. F**  
**Santee, CA 92071**



## Field Day Recap

*By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ*  
*Edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ*

As many of you know I was unable to attend Field Day this year, thankfully Pat WA6MHZ has provided us with a recap of our Field Day activities. Pat gave this recap in the form of a presentation at our July meeting. Pat also posted a nice article on QRZ.com, here are excerpts from both presentations.



## ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 222.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



Members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon set up the Military tower on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> in all its glory! Here is the brand spanking new Tribander being carried into place



Looking good except for the 6 meter beam pointing the wrong way, this will get fixed shortly.



Here is my buddy Ray W1CTM doing a little time on 20 meters with the SR-400. That's my Field Day Interface Box on the table behind the laptop. The box measures AC volts, AC, amps, AC line frequency, and an hour meter. The box is also equipped with circuit breakers and 2 outlets.



The 4-element beam ready for some severe service. But not for long, upon trying it out I noticed the finals were oscillating in the SR-400. We checked the coax all along the long run to the Tower Trailer, no problems there! But at the antenna we found the connection to one side of the driven element had become open! So down the tower came and we scrapped the aluminum and attached the wire with a hose clamp, that put us on the air.







Daniel KJ6IOB was quite dismayed at his success on 40 meter SSB. I tried retuning the tuner, but something was most fishy. Peter KJ6VCM, our VP and Field Day Chairman, checked the coax, one connector fell off in his hand. The connector had never been soldered properly.

That coax was replaced, but the 40/80 antenna still didn't work, so down the tower came once again to replace the antenna with a G5RV. Now we started working folks on 40 meters. I had checked all the radios prior to Field Day and supplied many of them. Now everything was working great. well almost everything that is. .



The 6 meter beam was still facing the wrong way, and we could work local stations fine, but we wanted DX. So down came the Military tower again.



About mid afternoon we had a most prestigious visitor! Our Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton N6AA stopped by with our San Diego Section Manager Steve AD6VI!





I missed getting a photo of Steve, I was busy with pileups on 20 meter SSB. The day wore on and we were really getting Hungry!!! Cal KG6FBV was our cook for Field Day and did a masterful job.



My choice for breakfast was a Cholesterol bomb, 2 eggs fried over easy into one piece and then with 2 slices of cheese and 2 strips of bacon on a toasted bun. No finer breakfast could be found.



I flaked out at 5:30, I was bushed, and went home for a good shower and right to bed. Meanwhile, the troopers of the club worked Field Day all night long and into the early morning hours.

I showed back up at 6AM and resumed my 20 meter pileups. I tried to make up for flaking out so early. Cal arrived and it was time for Breakfast!!!



The rest of the morning was uneventful, but I ran lot of pileups and logged dozens of stations if not hundreds. I worked it right up to 11:00 AM when it was all over. The work was just beginning, time to tear down everything. We got it all done and back to the shed. The Tower Trailer was returned by Mike KG6TDP safely to its designated location.

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## The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark Wardwell KB6PJU has started a code practice group on the WA6BGS repeater. The code practice group is off to a good start, below is Mark's description of the group and its intended format.

*"The Morse Code practice Group as visualized will consist of a primary operator sending morse code character groups of varying length and sizes via a PC Program called "Just Learn Morse Code" that allows many options in actual speed, character speed, and character spacing in an infinitely variable pattern. The group will be a controlled net operation, with all members doing a casual check-in process only for personal demographics, not a continuing user list.*

*Loose planning will ensure user effectiveness. The schedule of 3 time weekly practice is so people that are really interested can retain and augment their skills on a regular basis, and not loose all they learned by waiting a week. Personal use of Just Learn Morse Code program will also be encouraged.*

*The groups schedule is Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings at 7pm local time. On The ARCEC Repeater 147.420/146.475 107.2 pl .I planned the schedule around the presently operating nets and as sole operator, I can and will cease operations whenever necessary to circumstances."*

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## Next Month's Meeting ARRL Centennial Convention

A presentation  
by  
Pat Bunsold

Next month at The Ranch House Restraint Pat WA6MHZ will give a presentation on the ARRL Centennial Convention. This presentation promises to be very good, we hope to see you there this coming August 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Editor's Notes

By Sue Robins AF6LJ

Field day is a lot of fun and a good time to show what amateur radio operators can do. Sometimes in the heat of the moment safety takes a back seat to getting the station on the air, this is human nature. We must take a moment to ask ourselves if what we are about to do is safe, and do we have the proper safety equipment?

Our hobby is one that under the right circumstances can become very dangerous, I have a Heath SB-220 (I lovingly call Oscar) that is going through a multi-part customization. Every time I open it up I remain very much aware of the fact that carelessness could cost me my life. With other gear I have had a few close calls in my life. Those encounters of the Voltage Kind were the result of being in a hurry and not following safety protocols. Safety must always come first. Enjoy our beloved hobby, and by all means be safe.

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise send that content to [counterpoise@wa6bgs.us](mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us) You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.

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# Crest 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival

By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ



Thanks to Dave Ward for coming up to Crest this morning and helping out so much with the Festival! The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon had a wonderful booth where we demonstrated Amateur Radio to the masses. At the South Lane park end of the event was Terry, K6TRY who performed invaluable service by running the start of the parade. There was considerable Communications traffic between the 2 parks as the event's organizers remained in Nancy Jane Park with Terry doing such a great job at the start point. Special thanks to Dave for so much hard work, and coming up to Crest to insure the club had a prominent Presence. Dave is just a Superman for all he does!

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The 2014 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention is to be held September 12-14 at the Four Points By Sheraton. For more information visit; <http://www.sandarc.net/>

Hope to see you there.

## Club Shirts & Jackets

We have 2013 club shirts and jackets available at meetings and from the club website. Shirts are available sizes from small to XX large, this year's shirt has a pocket and as usual is green in color with the club logo in white. The cost is \$12.00 each. You can get a 2013 Field Day shirt or the standard club shirt, both styles of shirts have the club logo on the back and the left side.

Jackets are also available in sizes ranging from Medium to XX large. These are of the lined windbreaker style, with side pockets and they snap down the front. The cost is \$24.00 each.

We also have a number of shirts from 2012, these shirts are identical to the 2013 shirts without the pocket, and they are available in both the standard club shirt and the 2012 Field Day shirt. Sizes are limited to stock on hand. For more information regarding our club shirts see; <http://wa6bgs.us/2013-club-shirts-and-jackets/>